



This essay achieved 37/40, a grade A



In the introduction, the student clearly sets out the areas to be covered, and also indicates the nature of the response to the central KI.

Use the introduction to provide an overview of your essay and to provide clarity regarding the central KIs as well as an indication of your response to the KIs.



The early clarification and evaluation of the KIs related to the title is very helpful. The student does this while highlighting the strong links between ethics and language and assessing the role of emotion.

Introduce each new section of your essay with a paragraph that clearly sets out and addresses the KIs and related AO1 concepts such as WOKs or AOKs.

Language, emotion, reason and perception, are ways of knowing. Language is critical for knowers as it enables them to express and pass on their knowledge for the benefit of future generations. However, I believe that language plays an unequal role of importance in the six areas of knowledge. I believe, and will demonstrate through examples from the areas of ethics, natural sciences and the arts, that language has the greatest role to play in ethics followed by the natural sciences. I believe that, of the three I have cited, the arts use language, as opposed to the other ways of knowing, the least.

Ethics, which deals with the values relating to human conduct with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions, uses language as an integral component of knowing. It also uses emotion to a large degree but I believe that it is language which generates the emotion which, in turn, will be used in making an ethical decision. Over the years, issues such as abortion and euthanasia have been debated by politicians and human rights protesters. Admittedly, discussing such issues can generate emotional distress which helps to educate knowers about the topic in question. However, language is employed by skilled



The student chooses an authentic and effective example to support the KI that language plays an integral role in ethics. The student identifies lobby group campaigns as demonstrating the emotive power of language. He analyses the terms carefully and also the communication techniques used by the lobby group.

Provide authentic examples that you are able to analyse in detail, revealing how it throws light on the KI.



Extending the example to show that language can work to communicate and enhance opposing viewpoints increases the analytic nature of the essay. The effectiveness of this example is boosted by the detailed examination of terms and phrases as well as a passing reference to another AOK (history).

orators in order to spin and persuade and, in doing so, cause this grief. As a debater myself, I have frequently used specific vocabulary in order to instigate emotion and educate an audience with regards to an ethical issue. Perhaps it is these personal experiences which have led me to my belief that language plays such an important role in ethics as I have experienced and utilised its power firsthand. This tactic of using language to one's advantage is visible on most ethical campaign group websites. *Pro-choice*, a pro-abortion lobby group, has a question posed boldly on its homepage: "Will parenthood ruin your life?" Clearly they are drawing attention to some of the myths spread by anti-abortionists which claim that by having an abortion a mother's life would be forever *ruined*. The verb 'to ruin' is both strong and harsh and the statement makes no reference to the many joys of parenting. This is done so that a casual reader might click on the link, believing it to be anti-abortionist when in fact the page which loads explains that parenthood is one of the greatest joys in life. Likewise, *Pro-choice* refers to "Post-Abortion Syndrome" as being a "myth generated by anti-abortion proponents which has not been recognised scientifically or medically". By dismissing one of the greatest concerns many women feel when deciding whether to have an abortion as a "myth", *Pro-choice* is successfully using language in order to educate others by their own values.

Pro-life uses language on their website in order to persuade readers that abortion is wrong. They speak of abortion as being the "deliberate termination of a human life"—making it sound like a conscious, calculated murder. "Human life" is also much more personal than "foetus" as one can dismiss a foetus as being too small to count as a life where as "human" makes the foetus sound far more developed and easier to compare to oneself. *Pro-life* refers to unborn babies as being "innocent and defenceless" and alludes to the abuse of abortion and euthanasia laws under Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany. The latter generates sentiments of disgust and repulsion while the first encourages the audience to feel sympathy for the unborn child and, in turn, campaign against the violent act of abortion. Conversely, anti-abortionists often use the arts to achieve their aims: pictures of aborted babies can lead to strong condemnation of the practice.

Care Not Killing campaigns against euthanasia and speaks about the need to prevent "infanticide" and the "murder of the old". As with abortion, the language used is powerful and emotionally-stimulating. Perhaps the ultimate test of my belief that language plays such an important role when making ethical decisions is the following



Although hypothetical examples are not generally recommended, this one is effective (B) because it allows exploration of the question of whether language or emotion is ultimately more effective in a highly delicate ethical situation (A).

Avoid using hypothetical examples unless doing so allows you to explore the finer details of a KI.

hypothetical situation. If I was a doctor, I might have to make a choice between either not resuscitating a dying man—in accordance with his verbal instructions —, or attempting to save his life. Lawfully, the correct decision would be to use the knowledge issue of language and follow his verbal request. Resuscitating him, despite being the action emotion would tell me was correct, would in fact be illegal. Therefore, I believe that in the area of knowledge of ethics, language plays a very important role: both in shaping an opinion and in helping a knower make a lawfully correct decision in an ethical dilemma.



The introduction to a section on a second AOK uses comparison between AOKs to consider the central KI raised by the title. This is followed by consideration of the role of another WOK, reason in the natural sciences; this is compared with the role of language.

Develop breadth of understanding in your discussion of KIs by making comparisons between WOKs and AOKs.

The second area of knowledge I will examine is the natural sciences which, I believe, use language as a way of knowing to a smaller degree than ethics. Natural sciences are the study of the phenomena of the physical universe and use the scientific method as a way of finding explanations and producing theories. The main way of knowing associated with this area of knowledge is, in my opinion, reasoning. This is because the aim of scientific method is to produce a theory, something which can only be deduced from experimentation. Scientists will use reasoning in order to formulate a theory based on an initial hypothesis and subsequent experiments. Language is mostly used once a theory has been established. Binomial nomenclature is used universally to classify animals by naming them in Latin according to their species and genus. Humans are *Homo sapiens*, literally translated as 'the wise man'. *Homo*, the genus, includes humans and their extinct relatives—it is estimated that the Neanderthals died out 30,000 years ago. This process of binomial nomenclature serves several important functions in order that the natural sciences may be taught and the area of knowledge itself may be updated. As the world is full of different languages, an international understanding of an animal or species could potentially be prevented by the knowledge failing to cross international frontiers/By using a common language to name and classify organisms, scientists from all over the world are able to help one another find common patterns between different species, trace their ancestral roots, and develop a greater understanding of the world around them. Charting the evolution of organisms on the planet today will help scientists predict the future of evolutionary activity. Therefore, along with reason, language plays an important role in the natural sciences although its importance is less than in ethics.



A very solid and well-explained academic example—binomial nomenclature—is provided to show the fundamental role language has in aspects of the natural sciences. The strength of this example is that knowledge implications are considered, such as the effects of the generalization of knowledge regarding animal species.

The final area of knowledge I will examine is the arts where I believe language plays a significantly smaller role as a way of knowing in comparison to the other two areas I have discussed. The arts cover an incredibly broad spectrum ranging from music to paintings which, for the purpose of my argument, I shall concentrate on. Music, in



This discussion includes several claims and counterclaims, developing an argument (G). Clarity is enhanced by signalling counterclaims with "however" and implications with "therefore" (D). Arguments are strengthened by considering claims and counterclaims in relation to an example.

the classical sense, uses very few words and so, in order that it is appreciated and one can use it as an area of knowledge, I believe it uses emotion as particularly forms of music can stimulate emotions. For example, John Williams' musical score for Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's Lists* is commonly accepted to be one of the most heart-wrenching and haunting soundtracks ever to be composed. Given the subject-matter of the film, this seems most appropriate and perhaps the soundtrack is only able to generate such emotion as a result of a listener's perception of the film, which may have been aided by the language. However, I heard the music before seeing the film and yet was still tearful. Evidently, the melody is able to generate emotion without the need of additional ways of knowing. Language is hardly used in classical music as, besides from directions on the manual script such as forte or piano, no words are used. However, here I recognise my own prejudices: my tastes lean towards classical music as opposed to a genre such as rap. In rap music, counter to my previous conclusion, the lyrics employed are deliberately chosen in order to help carry the grievances or opinions of the artist to the listener and so serve the point of the song. Therefore, depending on the area of music in question, language can play a small or a great role of importance.

In another aspect of the arts—drawings and paintings—, perception must be used as this art form requires insight and observation in order to understand the artist's aims and objectives in creating the piece. For example, the Bayeux Tapestry tells the epic tale of the Norman invasion of England in 1066 whilst using very few words. It requires perception to understand the story and learn from it. Therefore, there are large areas of the arts which scarcely use language as a way of knowing as they utilise perception and emotion to a greater degree. However, there are other art forms such as hieroglyphics and the music used by African tribes to communicate which could be argued to be a form of interaction and thus a form of language.

I have examined three areas of knowledge—ethics, natural sciences and the arts—in order to decide whether language plays a role of equal importance between the various areas of knowledge. Using examples from history and my own personal experience, I have argued that language does in fact play roles of different importance in the various areas. As my examples demonstrate, I believe language plays a far greater role in ethics than in the arts or natural sciences. However, I have highlighted the broadness of the arts which will lead rise to disagreement with my conclusion as I have reached it from examining limited, biased examples.

Word Count: 1595



Although this example is good (B), it is not sufficiently analysed (C). The use of the word "story" in the example indicates that it could be counter-argued that the viewer is reading the artwork like a text. Always look for the possibility of a counterclaim to any claim or example given regarding IBs.



The conclusion refers back to the KI expressed in the title. The main arguments and conclusions are summarized, accompanied by evaluation of the central argument and a personal critique.

Apart from being a synopsis of the central arguments, a conclusion also provides an opportunity for you to briefly reflect and evaluate the manner in which you have approached the IBs.

Bibliography

Care not Killing Website: <http://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/> 14th June 2007

Klan Parenthood Website: http://www.100abortionpictures.com/Aborted_Baby_Pictures_Abortion_Photos/ 14th June 2007

National Abortion Federation Website: <http://www.prochoice.org/> 14th June 2007

Pro-Life Alliance Website: <http://www.prolife.org.uk/> 14th June 2007

Wikipedia, Neanderthals: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neanderthal/> 14th June 2007



Examiner report

Criterion A: (9) The essay genuinely explores in a sophisticated manner KIs that are pertinent to the title. The student attempts quite successfully to show that the central KI of the role played by language in the AOKs pragmatically affects the conventions or methodology followed. They also show that it reveals prevailing attitudes and approaches in ethics ("care not killing", euthanasia) and in the natural sciences (binomial nomenclature).

Criterion B: (9) All the examples show an individual approach and the vividness and energy with which they are analysed demonstrates their connection to the student's own experience as a learner. Different perspectives (euthanasia in ethics, film music for Schindler's List) are

discussed in depth in order to explore the role of language.

Criterion C: (9) The student develops a critical and insightful inquiry throughout the essay, based upon well-supported claims and examples, with counterclaims balanced by counter-examples (abortion versus pro-choice). Arguments are clear, with main points well justified, while the detail of the analysis allows for the identification of implications and underlying assumptions (particularly in ethics and the natural sciences).

Criterion D: (10) The essay is extremely well structured from the outset, with an overview in the introduction allowing for a clear, overall organization. Concepts are

clearly developed and explained, with factual information and well-clarified reasoning to justify argumentation. The referencing permits tracing and acknowledgement of all the sources used.

Overall ...

An excellent essay, in which the student has balanced good organization of ideas with a strong quality of inquiry. How do you think that the examples and viewpoints provided in the essay are relevant to society today? In what manner do the issues and perspectives raised by the essay's discussion address the central KI suggested by the title? Why do you think that it's important to achieve the balance between the ethical, natural sciences and arts AOKs that this essay achieves?